

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 276497

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: KAGNEW FOUR - BRIEFING ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT

REF: ADDIS 13569

1. CONCUR THAT EMBASSY SHOULD BRIEF PMG IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN KAGNEW FOUR CASE, ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. WE ARE CONTINUING TO WORK THROUGH THIRD COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE ACCESS TO THE ELF/PLF, ASKING THEM TO PRESS THE INSURGENTS TO RELEASE THE KAGNEW FOUR UNCONDITIONALLY ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. (EMBASSY SHOULD OF COURSE DECLINE TO IDENTIFY THOSE GOVERNMENTS.) THERE HAVE AS YET BEEN NO POSITIVE RESULTS. ALL GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED KNOW THAT THE USG WILL NOT NEGOTIATE FOR THE CAPTIVES' RELEASE, I.E., THAT WE WILL NOT BARGAIN AGAINST THE INSUR-
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GENTS' DEMANDS OR "RECOMMENDATIONS."

B. WE ARE CONTINUING TO MAKE KNOWN OUR WILLINGNESS TO MEET DIRECTLY WITH ELF AND PLF REPRESENTATIVES. SO FAR THE ONLY MEETING THAT HAS MATERIALIZED WAS THAT WITH ELF REPS IN KHARTOUM, ABOUT WHICH PMG HAS ALREADY BEEN INFORMED. THERE HAS BEEN NO SEQUEL TO THAT MEETING.

C. WE ARE ENDEAVORING THROUGH SEVERAL CHANNELS TO TRANSMIT PACKAGES AND MAIL TO THE CAPTIVES. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION YET THAT SUCH PACKAGES OR MAIL HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THEM.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO INFORM PMG OF LOCATIONS AT WHICH KAGNEW FOUR ARE NOW THOUGHT TO BE. ACCORDING TO DOWNIE, CISCO TWO ARE IN VICINITY OF ELGHENA WHILE KAGNEW TWO ARE BELIEVED TO BE IN THE VICINITY OF TESSENEI, BASED ON ROBERTS' REPORT AND SUBSEQUENT BOWIDOWICZ LETTER STATING THAT HE WAS TWO HOURS FROM SUDAN. (SINCE DOWNIE'S REPORT HAS NOT YET BEEN PUBLISHED, YOU SHOULD NOT REVEAL HIM AS SOURCE OF LOCATION OF CISCO TWO BUT MERELY CITE "FOREIGN JOURNALIST.") EMBASSY SHOULD ASK PMG'S COMMENTS ON THESE REPORTED LOCATIONS AND SHOULD URGE CONTINUED COMPLIANCE WITH EARLIER UNDERSTANDING THAT NO HOSTILE ACTION, I.E. AERIAL BOMBING WOULD BE TAKEN IN THOSE VICINITIES. AT ITS DISCRETION EMBASSY SHOULDNOTE THAT WE AND THE FAMILIES HAVE BEEN CONCERNED OVER REPORTS, STARTING WITH INTERVIEWS ON NBC, THAT PMG HAD BOMBED VILLAGES THROUGH WHICH KAGNEW TWO HAD JUST PASSED. KISSINGER

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